AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A conveyor dishwasher having at least one washing zone, at least one rinsing zone, a drying zone, a suction-extraction location for an exhaust-air stream and a transporting device for conveying wash ware in a transporting direction through the conveyor dishwasher, ~~the conveyor dishwasher further comprising~~ and wherein:

~~nozzles~~ means are provided for ~~blowing hot~~ producing heated air ~~into~~ in the drying zone;

~~nozzles in the washing zone; wherein~~

~~flow can be regulated from at least one of (1) the nozzles for blowing hot air into the drying zone and (2) the nozzles in the washing zone; whereby~~

~~the exhaust-air stream is produced in the dishwasher counter to the transporting direction of the wash ware through the dishwasher~~

air intake openings, that can accommodate external-air streams drawn into the dishwasher, are provided at an inlet and an outlet of the dishwasher;

the suction-extraction location is disposed upstream, relative to the transporting direction, of the at least one washing zone, the at least one rinsing zone and the drying zone; and

a motor-driven fan with an air intake communicating with the interior of the dishwasher is disposed at the suction-extraction location, whereby a heated air stream is produced that moves through the dishwasher in a direction counter to the transporting direction.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, wherein

a drying fan with pivotable exit nozzles is arranged in the drying zone~~, and~~

~~the nozzles for blowing hot air into the drying zone are pivotably designed exit nozzles assigned to the drying fan~~.

4. (currently amended) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 3, wherein ~~volumes of exhaust air passing out of the drying zone are~~ the flow volume of the air stream is variable, dependent on the position of the exit nozzles.

5. (previously presented) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 4, wherein, in a first position of the pivotably arranged exit nozzles within the drying zone, the dishwasher can be operated without clouds of steam at the inlet and outlet.

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, wherein a deflecting surface is accommodated in the region of the drying zone, beneath the nozzles for blowing hot air into the drying zone.

8. (previously presented) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 7, wherein the deflecting surface is of essentially horizontal design and runs beneath the device for transporting the wash ware.

9. (currently amended) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the drying zone is ~~assigned~~ provided with a separating curtain on the outlet side, as seen in the transporting direction of the wash ware, and

this separating curtain bounds ~~an intake~~ the air intake opening at the outlet of the dishwasher, via which an external-air stream can be taken into the drying zone.

10. (currently amended) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, ~~and further comprising~~ wherein:

a heat-recovery device ~~and a fan assigned to the heat recovery device~~ is disposed in the path of air flow generated by the fan; and wherein

the capacity of the fan is dependent on a quantity of air which can be channeled away out of the drying zone.

11. (currently amended) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, wherein the exhaust-air stream which is extracted via the suction-extraction location corresponds to the external-air streams which are taken in via intake openings.

12. (previously presented) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 4, wherein the exit nozzles within the drying zone can be adjusted by electromotive, pneumatic or hydraulic means or mechanically via levers.

13. (currently amended) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in ~~claim 1~~ claim 3, wherein the exit nozzles can be pivotally adjusted ~~in the pivoting direction~~ during operation of the conveyor dishwasher.

14. (currently amended) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein~~ wherein:
a heat-recovery device is disposed in the path of air flow generated by the fan; and
the fan is a speed-regulated fan; and
the exhaust-air stream is regulated by ~~means of a speed-regulated~~ regulating the speed of the fan ~~assigned to a heat-recovery device~~.

15. (currently amended) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 3, ~~wherein~~ wherein:
a heat recovery device is disposed in the path of air flow generated by the motor-driven fan;
the motor-driven fan is provided with a variable-capacity drive for varying the capacity of the motor-driven fan; and
a position of the exit nozzles and/or a capacity of ~~a fan of a heat-recovery device~~ the motor-driven fan are/is regulated in dependence on operating states of the dishwasher and/or on at least one of the following process parameters: temperature (τ), moisture content (x) in the drying zone or at the inlet and outlet.

16. (currently amended) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 15, wherein the regulation of a manipulated-variable position of the exit nozzles and/or the capacity of the drive of the motor-driven fan are/is regulated in dependence on at least one of (1) wash ware which is present in the drying zone, (2) the moisture content (x) of the hot air which is circulating in the drying zone and (3) the temperature (τ) prevailing in the drying zone.